

Medicine Bow Bridge *WYOMING HISTORIC TROSS BRIDGE SURVEY*
Spanning Medicine Bow River,
on Carbon County Road No. 120-1
Elk Mountain vicinity
Carbon County
Wyoming

HAER No. WY-~~67~~⁶¹

HAER
WYO,
4-ELMD.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
P. O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER
WYO.
4-ELMO. V,
1-

Medicine Bow Bridge

HAER No. WY-~~17-0~~¹⁶¹

Location: Spanning Medicine Bow River, on Carbon County Road
No. 120-1, 0.1 mile south of Elk Mountain, in Carbon
County, Wyoming

UTM: 13.382700.4615735
Quad: Elk Mountain

Date of Construction: 1923-1924

Builder/Designer: D. B. Miller of Cheyenne and Denver

Present Owner: Carbon County
Third and Pine Streets
Rawlins, Wyoming 82801

Present Use: Vehicular Bridge

Significance: The Medicine Bow Bridge is an interesting hybrid pony
truss with Warren diagonals and verticals at
alternating panel points and a Parker-like top chord.
As the longest of this type on the County Road System,
this bridge is an important representative of an
engineering anomaly.

Historians: Clayton B. Fraser and Richard G. Ewig
November 1981

~~NOTE: For more general information, see Wyoming Truss Bridges Survey,
HAER No. WY-17~~

I. HISTORY

In August 1923, Carbon County awarded the construction contract for three trusses (over Pass Creek southeast of Walcott, over Medicine Bow River at Elk Mountain, and over Mill Creek just north of Elk Mountain) to D. B. Miller of Cheyenne and Denver. With a proposal of \$42,970, Miller had underbid three other bridge contractors, the Midland Bridge Company, the Monarch Engineering Company, and the Colorado Bridge and Construction Company, all national bridge erectors.¹

II. DESCRIPTION

The Medicine Bow Bridge is a single span, steel rigid connected Warren Pony truss with polygonal top chords and verticals at alternating panel points, with a span of 102 feet. The roadway is 16 feet wide and constructed of steel strings with a timber deck.

The abutments are concrete. Top chords are channels connected with cover plates and lacing; bottom chords are angles connected with tie bars; verticals are angles connected with cover plates; and the diagonals are angles connected with tie bars.²

¹ Carbon County Commissioners' Minutes, July 1, 1923, August 7, 1923, and September 4, 1923.

² Historical Bridge Survey and Inventory Form. Wyoming State Highway Department.